

The Polish Review



GEN. SIKORSKI IN BAGDAD AFTER VISIT TO CAIRO

Gen. Sikorski, Polish Prime Minister and Commander in Chief, has arrived in Bagdad where he was received on alighting from his plane by Generals Anders, Malhomme, Tokarzewski, Rakowski, Bishop Gawlina and Generals Szarecki, Kopanski, Szyszko Bohusz as well as Polish and British officers, with Azud Reguh, member of the Iraq Government.

When the plane's door opened General Sikorski stepped out. Later he reviewed the guard of honor and welcomed the Iraq Government's representatives, thanking them for the reception the Iraq people have given Polish soldiers saying, "the Polish soldiers will always keep it in warm memory." Then General Sikorski asked the Government's delegate to convey sincere greetings to the Regent and the Government. General Sikorski approached the generals and other Polish officers chatting with some of them whom he had not seen for several years since they have been sent on special missions to the East.

Later General Sikorski, Anders, Malhomme, the British General Beaumont Nesbitt, went to a stand decorated with the Polish flags in order to see the guard of honor march past. To the strains of the "Warszawianka" one of the regiments organized in Russia marched past.

General Sikorski saw them first on his visit to Russia when they marched without arms, in torn uniforms. Now they marched in excellent condition, healthy, sunburnt, their eyes shining with joy because of the changed circumstances under which they could parade. Their spirit impressed everybody present.

After the parade General Sikorski called the regiment's commander and asked him to thank the men for the fine spirit saying: "You march like a guard regiment, I am sure you'll also fight like a guard regiment." The regimental commander answered, "For the country's glory we will do our utmost and fight best." With General Sikorski arrived his daughter, Zofja, also General Beaumont Nesbitt, Klimecki, Colonels Marescki and Gazalet. Flight from Cairo to Bagdad in excellent flying weather took six hours.

In Cairo Gen. Sikorski was the guest of honor at a dinner given by Mr. Casey, the British Minister of State in the Middle East. Also present were the Polish Minister to Egypt, Mr. Zazulinski and Generals Anders and Klimecki. The Commander-in-Chief of the Middle East forces, General Sir Henry Wilson, Lord Moyne, General Beaumont Nesbitt, British Military

JUNAK SCHOOL INSPIRATION FOR POLISH CAUSE

During his stay in Palestine Archbishop Spellman visited the Junak school where, as he himself said, he "gained a picture of the Polish military youth—a picture so clear that it gives me fresh inspiration for the Polish cause." In Tyberias, Archbishop Spellman was welcomed cordially by the youngest Polish volunteers, that is pupils of the Polish military school. Archbishop Spellman held a service for them and gave Communion, and also delivered a warm sermon.

In Nazareth, the American prelate visited the elementary school for the younger Junak, where he was welcomed by a platoon of cadets presenting arms. He noted with special attention a cross around which the boys gather daily for prayer. Archbishop Spellman took part in the boys' lunch and made a speech to them, full of friendly feeling toward Poland saying:

"This is not a new friendship, it dates from my school and college days. Among my comrades were many Poles. It also dates back to my stay in Poland when I learned to know Cracow as well as the Polish Lourdes, Czestochowa. Exercising pastoral protection over millions of Poles in America gave me the opportunity to know their great Catholic spirit. There were no bad Catholics among the Poles. During this war I have been praying constantly for the Poles, for the liberation of your country."

Archbishop Spellman further expressed his delight over being able to meet Polish youth in Palestine. Looking at the Polish Junaks' youthful figures, he saw that they brought Poland with them in their hearts. Having such sons Poland will never perish. Finally the distinguished guest gave assurance that he would continue to give to the Polish cause his moral and material support. Before departing he blessed the youths as well as their guardians.

In Tyberias and in Nazareth he made contributions to the fund for purchasing musical instruments and for the holidays.

Attaché in Washington, and Colonel Gazalet.

General Sikorski called on General Wilson. At a ceremony in the Polish Legation, General Sikorski awarded Mr. Romer, former Polish Ambassador to Moscow, the gold cross of merit with swords. Archbishop Spellman also lunched with General Sikorski at the Polish Legation in Cairo.

POLISH HOME FRONT REPLIES TO "THIRD OF MAY" MESSAGES

IN reply to goodwill messages sent to the Polish Nation by President Roosevelt, Mr. Churchill, and other leaders of the Allied Governments and transmitted to Poland by General Sikorski there has been received from Poland the following message.

"We have received with greatest joy the words of appreciation and comfort sent on The Third of May, our National Day to the suffering but stubbornly fighting Polish nation by leaders of the Allied countries, especially of the British and American Nations. The Polish Government's plenipotentiary in Poland and the political representation there assure all Allies that fighting Poland will keep firmly to the way she chose on September 1st, 1939. We shall never cease struggling for the liberation of the entire republic and in defense of principles of the freedom of nations. We request that this resolution be sent to the Allied Government concerned. Signed Polish Government Plenipotentiary in Poland and the political representation."

SPELLMAN VISITS POLISH FORCES IN MIDDLE EAST

Archbishop Spellman has visited the Polish Army in the Middle East. General Tokarzewski, Chief of Staff, welcomed Archbishop Spellman as "the representative of the friendly American nation with which we have been united for more than a century in a common fight for the highest ideals of freedom and democracy, and which gave us so much help in our struggle for existence and independence. We see in him also a prominent Prince of the Catholic church. I wish the Archbishop may take with him from this visit among us the deep belief that the Polish soldiers as faithful allies of the American nation will fight till the last drop of blood for the common aim, namely the victory of the principles of Christianity and justice throughout the world."

Then the band played the American national anthem. Archbishop Spellman reviewed the Guard of Honor and celebrated mass at a field altar decorated with Polish, British and American flags. After mass, Archbishop Spellman preached a sermon in which he expressed great joy over his visit with the Polish Army in the Middle East and thanked General Tokarzewski for the words "Poland fights not only for her own independence but also Christianity's high ideals."

Archbishop Spellman emphasized the fact that whenever he had contact with Poles he met ardent love of country, deep devotion for the Catholic faith and he said this could but increase his great friendship for Poland. He recalled many Poles who played an important part as founders of America.

POLES MUST BUY THEIR CHILDREN FOR 40 MARKS

Further news has been received from Poland concerning the fate of children of Poles forcibly removed from the Zamosc and the Bialystok districts. It is known that children above the age of 12 were deported immediately together with the adults for forced labor in the Reich.

The younger children were subjected to a process of segregation, the healthiest and strongest being sent to "institutions of German upbringing" in the heart of the Reich for the purpose of being completely Germanized, while the remainder was sent to various villages being transported by special trains to various points of Poland. According to latest news, numerous transports of these children, mainly aged 4 to 10 years arrived in March to Pomorze.

Large crowds of Polish women gathered at the railway stations at Bydgoszcz, Chojnice, Tczew and Gdynia wanting to take children to their homes to look after them. The German escort handed over the children to Polish families against payment of forty marks per child. Some of the children whom the Germans would not give up even for payment, were placed in a special camp at Garczyn near Kosciierzyna while a certain number of children were sent to German colonist families settled in Pomorze. The purpose of this was to Germanize the children but the German colonists, contrary to the order of the German authorities handed the children over to Polish families against payment.

The Polish Review

VOL. III, No. 22

JUNE 14, 1943

Weekly Magazine Published by

THE POLISH REVIEW PUBLISHING CO.
with the assistance of the Polish Information Center
745 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Annual Subscription Four Dollars

Single Copy Ten Cents

MASS PRODUCTION OF GERMANS BY FORCE HOW POLES ARE MADE INTO VOLKSDEUTSCHE

by JOSEPH KALMER



In a foreword to a recent issue of the periodical *Deutsche Arbeit* devoted to tasks of settlement in the East the Reichsführer-SS Himmler wrote:

"Our task is not to Germanize the East in the old sense, i.e., to teach the people living there the German language and German laws, but to see to it that in the East there should only live per-

sons of truly German, Teutonic blood."

On August 20, 1942, *Das Schwarze Korps* commented on this as follows:

"This is not the expression of an opinion beside which other opinions can also have validity, but the proclamation of an exclusive program by the man who thus transforms the Führer's will into action."

Not quite six months later the Nazis have already considerably watered down this pure conception of Germanization. For on February 3, 1943, Governor Hans Frank addressed a proclamation to the population of the Government-General of Poland, in which he called upon them to have themselves registered in the *German National List* (*Deutsche Volksliste*); March 15, 1943, was given as the final date for such registration. In justification of this appeal, Frank referred to the latest results of German science which had ascertained that the Poles were of German origin, and had only taken on the Polish language and the Polish customs as the result of special historical processes. Now they should return to their ancestors. In exchange Frank promised to devote his special care to the newly registered persons, and to grant them political privileges which were not precisely defined.

Is this a new attempt to induce the Poles to collaborate? Is the attempt now being made with even more stupid methods after the rejection of Hans Adolf von Moltke's "Normalization Statute" in December by the Polish underground parties? This can hardly be supposed. The Nazis know what they are doing, and their aims are not simple.

The *Government-General* has according to the periodical bearing the same name (numbers 13 and 14, 1941) a population of 17,644,000, only 100,000 of whom are Germans. It is impossible to balance this disproportionate relationship by normal means. If the Nazis wish to obtain mass registrations in the German National List, then there is only one method by which they can do so: naked, brutal terror. That is why, after the National Lists had been closed (not for the first time) on December 31, 1942, in January man-hunts and a brutal round-up of men, women and children were

instituted, the victims received treatment of varying nature. Those of whom the Nazis knew that they were engaged on illegal work were brought to the Gestapo headquarters and their subsequent fate is unknown. Those suspected of illegal work were taken to the new concentration camp at Majdanek near Lublin, which can accommodate 80,000 people. A third group was sent off to Germany for forced labor, and a fourth was compulsorily enrolled for the "construction work" which is carried on by the Todt and Speer organizations.

First of all people were inclined, as the arrests were mostly of young people, to imagine that the Nazis wished to make a provocation. The young people who were deported are among those who might in the event take part in a revolution in the rear of the Nazis as they retreated before the Russians. The Nazis wanted to provoke a premature uprising which they could now crush with the reserves of troops which they have in Poland—while this would become an impossibility after these reserves had been sent to stabilize the fluid Russian front. But the Poles did not allow themselves to be provoked, and so in three days about 35,000 people were arrested in Warsaw alone. The arrests went on. Naturally a terrible panic seized not only Warsaw but the whole of Poland. And in the middle of this panic came Hans Frank's proclamation offering any opportunist the possibility of escaping a terrible fate for the time being.

As far as news has come through up to the present this experiment, too, has failed. The Poles have not yet risen to the bait. But in order to understand the whole procedure we must recall the history of the Nazi attempts at Germanization in Poland.

Already in 1940 it became known that the Nazis had not only deported men and women from Poland to forced labor in the Reich, but also children between seven and fourteen years of age from Lodz, Ozorkow, Kalisz, Sieradz, and other towns and villages. In Bielsko (Polish Silesia) even two- and three-year-old children were torn from the arms of their mothers. Something was learnt about the purpose of these deportations when the *Kölnische Zeitung* (No. 584 of 1940) described the life of Polish girls who had been forced to enter German domestic science schools. The paper boasted that these children were not only learning German and domestic science, but were also being brought up "in the German spirit" to be "model German girls."

The Nazis were not content with this child robbery. On May 4, 1940, the *Reichsanzeiger* published a decree according to which the obligation of universal military service was

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GERMAN DESTRUCTION OF POLISH EDUCATION

by G. GODDEN

IN a protest of the Universities of England and Wales on the inhuman treatment of the Professors of Cracow University on December 1939, the creators and administrators of the Nazi regime have been aptly called "active enemies of civilization." Never have they shown themselves more systematic, more active, more inhuman than in their assault on Polish education. It must be remembered that this assault is a deliberate German policy and not a mere sporadic outburst of savagery. The fate of Poland, as decreed by the "Third Reich," is to become a nation of manual and technical workers laboring for the benefit of Germany—the *knechts*, servants, of the superior German race. Therefore the Poles need only elementary education as manual and technical workers. The declaration of the Nazi administrative head of the Lodz district is typical: "*Wir sind ein Herrenvolk*"—we are masters, and the Pole is a servant—*Knecht*.

To justify this policy the monstrous claim has been put forward that Poland "never had any educated classes but merely 'a degenerate and demoralized pseudo-intelligentsia.'" The truth is that Polish universities and schools, the learning and research of Polish scholars, are the flowering of ten centuries of culture. Benedictine schools existed in Poland under Boleslas, the "lion-hearted" who, from his accession in 992 A.D., spread Christian civilization among his people.

Cardinal Newman has told us what Benedictine culture meant to Northern Europe, slowly to be fashioned into the new Christendom of the West: "Silent men were observed about the country, or discovered in the forest, digging, clearing, and building . . . by degrees the woody swamp became a hermitage, a religious house, a farm, an abbey, a village, a seminary, a school of learning, and a city."

A new impetus was given to Polish learning in the early thirteenth century with the coming of the Franciscan friars; and in the fourteenth century (1364) Casimir the Great founded the University of Cracow. The original foundation included faculties of law, philosophy and medicine. The faculty of theology was added in the fifteenth century. Stu-



A wing of the University of Wilno, founded in 1578 by King Stefan Batory

dents from France, Germany, Hungary and Italy sought learning in Cracow, and at the close of the fifteenth century Cracow counted among its students Nicholas Copernicus, the immortal astronomer.

In the seventeenth century Polish culture had gained "truly amazing predominance" in Eastern Russia and the Ukraine. In the tragic eighteenth century which was to witness the first dismemberment of Poland, historic and scientific research had begun to flourish, and the first Ministry of Education in Europe was set up. The capital of Warsaw became a center of creative effort. Poland, divided and enslaved—plundered by stronger powers "with no more regard for honor or honesty, or the mere decency of appearances, than is shown by a burglar or a footpad" was still alive in mind and spirit!

When her days of bondage were over, the unconquerable vitality of Poland, immortalized in the cry of the Polish legions "Poland has not perished," blazed out. A free Poland full of constructive energy, rose from the devastation of the World



Library of the Academy of Commerce in Warsaw

War of 1914-18. Here is a short summary of what Poland achieved in the field of education in her brief years of peace and freedom, from 1921 to 1939. That achievement measures with accuracy the enormity of the crime wrought by the German invaders.

Under the Polish Constitution education in Poland was universal and free. It began in the Kindergarten, started in

Warsaw as early as 1840. The Montessori and Decroly methods were in use; games and open-air teaching promoted the health of young Poland from four to seven years of age. From seven to fourteen the children were to pass through the primary schools. The high school stage followed, the last two years of which would be devoted to special preparation for university study in arts or sciences. By 1929-30 war-ravaged Poland had 26,539 primary schools. Special schools were opened for the mentally retarded, the

deaf, the dumb and the blind.

Subjects taught in the Polish primary schools were: religion, the mother tongue, history, geography, arithmetic with geometry, the elements of natural science, drawing and singing; great stress was laid on instruction in civics. Physical culture was fully provided for, as well as instruction in handicrafts and housekeeping. Libraries existed in almost every school. Workshops, chemical and biological laboratories, and school kitchens were set up. Meals were provided in school hours, by co-operation with Parents' Committees. Teacher Training Colleges were created, and in 1933 numbered 200 with over 30,000 students.

The high schools of the new Poland were crowded with boys and girls from the ranks of peasantry and labor. In 1929-30 Poland possessed 759 high schools, giving a liberal education. Training schools, for technical and commercial education were declared to be one of the chief aims of the Polish School-Reform Bill of 1932. A wide extension of vocational training was achieved. These schools comprised technical schools for training artisans, and agricultural and horticultural workers; commercial schools; vocational schools for women; and continuation schools for young students already at work in industrial or commercial jobs.

Polish university life dates back to the foundation of the University of Cracow in the fourteenth century. The University of Lwow was founded in 1661; both in Lwow and in Wilno, Jesuit schools had already been started. The Universities of Warsaw and of Wilno gained eminence in the nineteenth century. When freedom came to Poland, after the war of 1914, new universities were set up; and the old universities soon had more than twice their pre-war number of students. The University of Poznan was founded in 1919. In 1938-39 five thousand students were in attendance. In 1933 Poland possessed eleven universities and institutions recognized as of university rank, viz. the Universities of Cracow, Warsaw (with 10,000 students in 1939), Lublin, Lwow, Wilno and Poznan; and faculties of Engineering, Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine, Mining and the Fine Arts. The Faculties of Engineering included sections of Architecture, Chemistry and Electricity.

Even in the disastrous days of her dismemberment Poland has always carried out research work of all kinds. Physics,

chemistry, archeology, historical and legal research, natural science, were all pursued in Poland, and by Polish emigres in Paris. It is only necessary to mention that great Polish scientist Madame Curie née Sklodowska to realize the position of Poland in the scientific work of France. Liberated Poland created the Institute of Chemical Research, the State Mineralogical and Geological Institute, a State Meteorological Office, an Institute of Aerodynamics, a Radium Institute, a Biological Institute and a Hydro-

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Silesian Technical Institute in Katowice



University in Lwow, founded in 1661 by King Jan Kazimierz

POLISH WOMEN ON THE HOME FRONT AND WITH THE FORCES

by HALINA ORSAK

GERMAN concentration camps and prisons are filled with Polish women condemned to a slow death for giving shelter to members of the underground, for actively taking part in the underground movement, for spreading news, for listening to London broadcasts, or even for giving oranges to a Polish family with a sick child.

We do not of course, have accurate figures that would give a complete picture of the hell through which Polish women are living, but we do know that in that most horrible of concentration camps, Oswiecim, where the number of deaths exceeds 250 daily, out of 23,000 prisoners there were 7,740 women in 1942. And some 20 such camps exist in Poland alone.

How many women are there in camps and other places of torture in the Reich itself, brought there by the sadistic lords of the "new order," hapless victims of man-hunts or German invasion of Polish homes? How many have been sentenced to death by German courts of injustice? The Germans themselves estimate that of the hundreds of thousands of executed Poles, 13% are women.

For what crimes do these Polish women go to their death?

In the fall of 1939, a 20-year-old student of the University of Warsaw tore down an anti-British poster, and paid with her own life for her faith in the integrity of an Allied nation.

In March 1940, a young woman from Cracow faced a firing squad for refusing to dance with a German officer.

In the spring of 1943, 72-year-old Stefanja Olszowska, widow of a former Polish Ambassador in Berlin was executed in a Warsaw prison because a Polish underground

printing-press was discovered in an apartment house owned by her.

In an atmosphere of horror and misery, the Polish women of today strive by superhuman effort, and at the constant risk of their life, to find food for their families and a drop of milk for their children.

Night and day they must keep their morale at a high pitch so as not to break down before the threat of deportation, hanging over every Polish family. More than a million and a half people, among them several hundred thousand women, have been sent to forced labor in Germany, which for the younger women often meant being sent to a brothel. From Gdynia alone, 1,800 women were sent into Germany. A report dated March 1940 states that a number of girls between the ages of 16 and 25 were arrested in Poznan and sent to the Western front to serve as the playthings of German soldiers.

To give even a faint picture of women's suffering in Poland, mention must be made of the forceful removal of children, between 7 and 14, from their parents to special camps and institutions in Germany where they are to be "reared" in the Nazi spirit.

How the hearts of thousands of Polish mothers must ache at this blow at the very existence of the Polish nation.

The war declared by the German invaders against Polish women is merciless: the Germans seek to destroy them physically and morally, for in the intransigent bearing, the patriotic fervor, and the tremendous influence exercised by Polish women, they see a serious danger to their aims.

Clearly and unmistakably the German press praises and approves all these sadistic measures of its government. But despite these blows, despite the unrelieved horror of life in conditions of enslavement worse than ever known to the civilized world, Polish women have not collapsed. They are still fighting faithfully and devotedly for their ideals. They even manage to have a publication of their own in occupied Poland. Their high morale never wavers either in their trampled and devastated homeland, or in places of horrible deportation and inhuman suffering.

And what spirit, what endurance have been shown by the tremendous numbers of Polish women, deported to the most distant, desolate and least civilized outskirts of limitless Russia.

After living through these difficult years, as soon as the opportunity presented itself of organizing relief work, these exhausted and haggard women volunteered in a body at military camps and army hospitals and showed a fine sense of organization in helping countless orphans and improving the teaching of children of school age.

Many of these women who were able to leave Russia, are now training in

Syria and Palestine as part of the Polish Women's Auxiliary Service, preparing to fight for the freedom of their distant motherland.

Called to life in 1942 by order of the Polish Minister for National Defense, General Kuksiel, the Polish Women's Auxiliary Service is largely modelled after the British women's organization, and embraces fields of training in which women can be of greatest service: liaison work, driving, nursing, canteen service, cadres of educational instructors, etc. Thousands of uniformed Polish women are now receiving intensive training in a number of camps set

up for this purpose in England and the Near East. A group of Polish girls have finished courses in aviation

and are now working as air pilots in the Air Transport Auxiliary. The youngest of these is Jadwiga Pilsudska, the daughter of Marshal Pilsudski.

Polish women were never passive witnesses of the historical events taking place in their homeland. And today, after the great changes wrought in their ranks during the period of their country's independence, they are all doing their utmost in this life and death battle for freedom that will cease only with victory.



Polish Waacs in the Middle East

MASS PRODUCTION OF GERMANS BY FORCE

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extended to the incorporated Eastern region, i.e. to the parts amputated from the Republic of Poland. The Polish Government at its session of May 8, 1940, protested against this violation of the Hague Convention. The Polish Government noted that the Nazis had by this decree created a basis—under the pretext that the persons concerned were of German blood—for forcing the Poles to declare themselves Germans.

This was a sign of great foresight on the part of the Polish Government. For after it became apparent by March 1, 1942—I give only the province of East Prussia as an example—that no Pole had registered in the German National List, forcible Germanization began. Everywhere, in villages and towns, meetings were called of the Polish age groups born between 1900 and 1924 (potential cannon fodder), the Mayor or Nazi local Group Leader delivered political addresses and called upon the assembled persons to "return to the bosom of the German nation." The addresses which were marked with a mechanical similarity, ended with the sentence: "We shall find ways and means of breaking your fanaticism and resistance." Then every person attending the meeting had a declaration put before him, the signing of which signified registration in the National List. Those who did not refuse their signature under this pressure were immediately put before a military medical commission which functioned in the same building. This commission declared that every one of these newly created *Volksdeutsche* was in principle fit for military service. The attendance of these meetings was compulsory.

How were those Poles treated who refused to sign?

In a meeting in one place in East Prussia thirty Poles declared that they were Poles. To begin with, they were put under arrest for three days. They were given bread and water and "political education"; after this twenty of them gave in at the next meeting. Ten remained steadfast. These

were put in irons and taken to a concentration camp; the other persons who attended the meeting were informed of this.

But Poles were registered in the National List even against their will. A particularly crass example of this was reported on February 10, 1942, by the *Danziger Vorposten*. According to this, a man had been condemned to death for failing to obey an enlistment order. When he was brought to the local military headquarters he drew attention to his Polish nationality. He received the reply that his enlistment was legal as he was registered in the German National List. When the man stated that this registration had been made against his will he was brought before a court, condemned to death and executed.

It is certain that the losses on the Russian front are already driving the Germans to play this poor trick of attempting the mass production of compulsory Germans. It is certain that men from the so-called incorporated areas are being pressed into the Army. When the Nazis occupied the Czech lands and, six months later, Poland, they tried to ascertain who of the oppressed people had German relations. If they found that anyone had a German grandmother or mother, then they were immediately ready to give the men in question Reich citizenship. These people were encouraged to apply for Reich citizenship.

In February 1942 this procedure was placed on the broadest possible basis. Then Gauleiter Albert Forster, Reichsstatthalter of Danzig, issued an order (*Danziger Neueste Nachrichten* of February 24, 1942), according to which people whose "good character is testified by other Germans and who, in our view, can be considered as Germans," were registered in the National Lists without any questions being asked. Forster then gave the time-limit for this registration as March 31, 1942. It was then extended to December 31, 1942. And now comes Frank's appeal to the Poles!



Polish ferry pilots in Britain—Anna Leska, Jadwiga Pilsudska, Barbara Wojtulanis

JACEK MALCZEWSKI—POET IN PAINTING

by TADEUSZ SZYDLOWSKI



SELF-PORTRAIT—By Jacek Malczewski

THE latter half of the 19th century in Poland saw the flowering of the creative painting that had had its rebirth a century earlier. It was in 1863 that the greatest of Polish painters, Jan Matejko, finished his first masterpiece, "*The Preaching of Skarga*." It was not much later that a group of young artists formed "Sztuka" (Art), the society that was to prove of such importance for Polish painting.

Jacek Malczewski (1854-1929) whose evolution as an artist linked two centuries and from the disciple of the realist Matejko became the most important Polish symbolist, is further proof of the originality and significance of this period of Polish art.

Even as a child in Radom, Malczewski betrayed a deeply sensitive and poetic nature prone to meditation, sadness and exaltation. When the Polish rising of 1863 against the Russians ran its bloody course, the artist was only ten, but he was aware of the sympathy of his family for the victims of the uprising. These early impressions were to bear fruit in later years when he chose Siberian exiles as the heroes of his first paintings. Grottger's visions of a martyred nation had, of course, left their mark on Malczewski, but he looked elsewhere for the right forms to express what he felt. The young man dreamed of monumental painting based on perfect and noble drawing. To master the technique of drawing, to become adept at re-creating the human figure in any position, he worked hard in the Cracow Academy of Fine Arts and in the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris.

Occupied with his dreams of heroic painting, Malczewski paid scant attention to the great blossoming of impressionist painting in Paris at the time of his stay there. The tendency of Manet and his followers to express visual impressions by luminous splashes of color could not suit him as from the very outset, he had sought to catch the human figure and to transmit a given message and poetic mood in his figure composition. But it was in Paris, that exuberant art center, where museums and art exhibitions stirred his imagination, that the young Polish artist's individuality became crystallized and his future mapped out. The bustle of the French capital, recovering from the defeat of Sedan, conjured up the vision of his own enslaved nation, while



THE RIDDLE—Jacek Malczewski

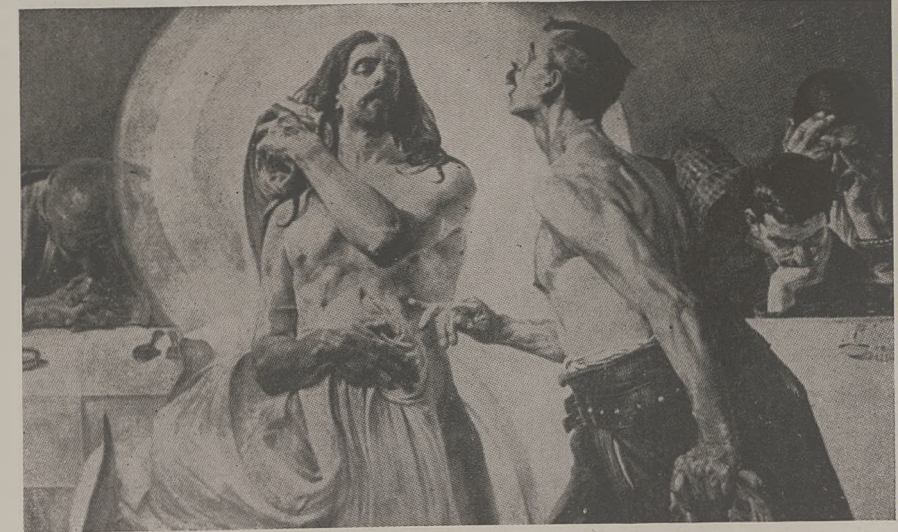
his innate poetic melancholy and patriotism evoked images of his countrymen suffering the tortures of Siberia.

Several years elapsed before he could free himself of the influence of Parisian ateliers and of the strong Matejko tradition to acquire a personal and independent artistic expression. But in 1882 his large painting, "*Sunday in the Mines*" showed he could treat a theme in his own way. Already in this early canvas, portraying Polish exiles resting in the salt mines of Russia the mood of melancholy is captured, the faces of the miners register pain, despair, passivity or resignation.

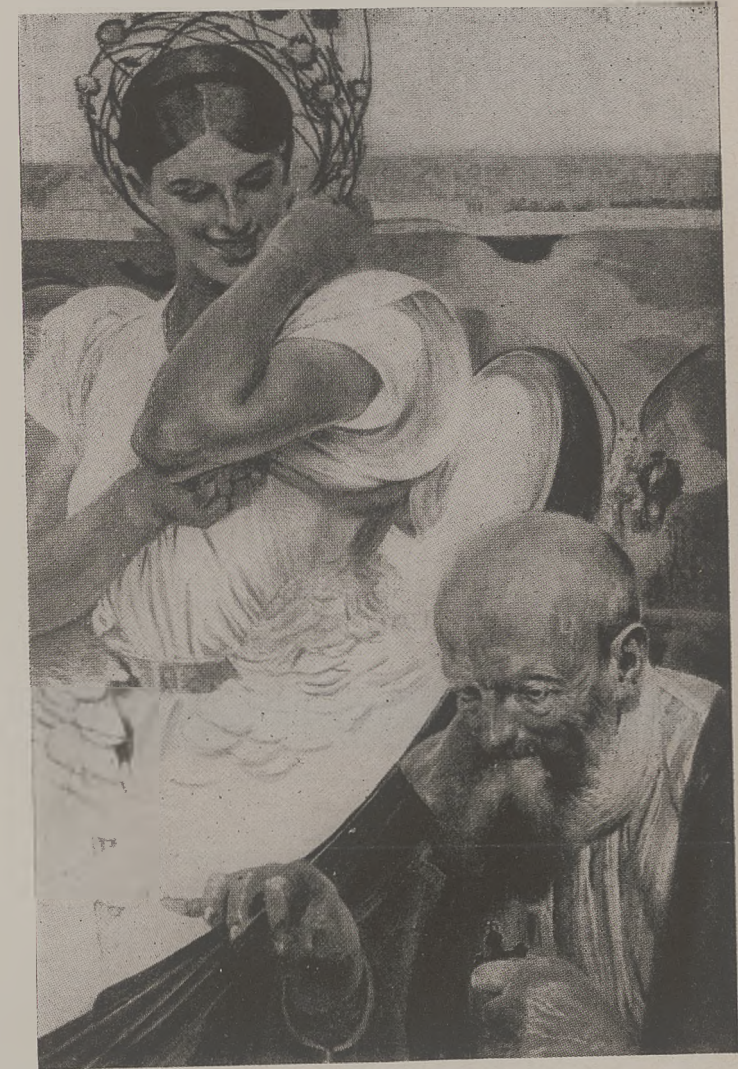
Malczewski's next work, also dating from 1882, the "*Death of an Exile*," is a great step forward in the direction of uniform composition. A second edition of this theme is the well-known "*Death of Ellenai*" (1883) based on the death scene from Slowacki's "*Anhelli*," in which there appear only two main figures and which gains thereby in simplicity and breadth of treatment. The unusual charm of the dead girl, the deep and silent sorrow of the man left behind form a moving and bold contrast. Details of dress, furniture or background are splendidly rendered. The woman's delicate wavy hair, the blades of straw, the texture of the fur covering, the

intricately woven mats on the wall of the hut—all show Malczewski was influenced by the vogue of meticulous realism.

This desire to be true to life impelled Malczewski in other works on Siberian subjects—"*Deportation of Students*" (1884) and "*Two Generations*" (1885)—to group his figures loosely to make them seem more natural. The "*Deportation of Students*" illustrates the martyrdom of Polish children, imprisoned by the Russians for their patriotic feelings. The group of poor students, especially the peasant bare-foot boy holding his hat on his



DOUBTING THOMAS—By Jacek Malczewski



RHAPSODY'S END—By Jacek Malczewski

knees, are well conceived and their faces are full of expression youthful energy and sentiment.

Malczewski soon rid himself of the romanticism so characteristic of his early Siberian pictures and bowed to the spirit of sober realism that held sway in his day. Studying nature with great intensity and interest, he improved his mastery of drawing and began to paint his figures in deft and broad strokes regardless of the difficulties of motion or perspective.

When he was not painting great patriotic compositions, Malczewski loved to paint mythological

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ANGEL—By Jacek Malczewski

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scenes of fantastic allegories. But in the last decade of the 19th century sobriety was a must—so, dancing dryads, nymphs and fauns were introduced as real beings. Nymphs were shown as village girls with healthy complexion and rounded forms clad in peasant costumes. Their flashing eyes and smiling lips lured the young men unfortunate enough to fall under their spell.

For some time Malczewski continued to depict tragic incidents in the lives of Polish exiles in Siberia. His panoramic arrangement of figures, so frequent in his early work, gradually gave way to a well thought out and more harmonious composition.



DEPORTATION OF STUDENTS TO SIBERIA
By Jacek Malczewski

scheme and its conscious use to achieve the desired effect.

As Malczewski matured as an artist, the realistic Siberian themes disappeared completely to be replaced by fantastic and symbolic themes. The accurate and objective presentation of nature gave way to a more synthetic and individual interpretation wherein the truth of nature was subordinated to higher artistic expression.

In the last decade of the 19th century and the first two of the 20th, Malczewski's production was feverish. His vivid imagination hit upon one idea after another and embraced many fields. The artist wanted to give plastic shape to visions suggested to him by the tormenting riddles of human life and its various manifes-

(Please turn to page 14)



DEATH OF ELLENAI IN SIBERIA—By Jacek Malczewski

22nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE SILESIAN PLEBISCITE



"Batory" Iron Works in Upper Silesia

THE draft of the peace treaty handed to the Germans on May 7, 1919 gave Upper Silesia to Poland without a plebiscite. The German plenipotentiaries insisted that Germany would be unable to pay reparations if Upper Silesia were taken from her.

On June 11, 1919 the Big Four decided on a plebiscite to be conducted not earlier than one year nor later than two years from that date.

Ignacy Paderewski threatened to resign. He pointed out the difficulties and disappointment this would cause the Polish people who believed and trusted the principles proclaimed by Wilson.

In the meantime, the Germans were not idle. In one year 100,000 Germans were transported to Upper Silesia, among them frontier police and 40,000 soldiers. Contrary to all existing laws they were given the right to vote in the plebiscite.

Even in 1919 Germany began to terrorize the local Polish population. This provoked a bloody uprising.

Wojciech Korfanty, the head of the Polish Plebiscite Committee, was ordered by German military authorities in Wrocław to leave Upper Silesia and not to return until 1920 with the International Plebiscite Commission.

The Poles in Silesia rose in a second revolt at the intensified German terror. In spite of stiff opposition by the Poles the plebiscite was finally conducted on March 20, 1921. The majority of Silesian districts declared themselves for Poland. But the Germans insisted that the total votes be counted—499,359 were for Poland and 706,605 for Germany. 185,000 of the German voters were emigres, and more than 100,000 were Germans who came from Germany during 1919.

It is only today that Great Britain and the United States are beginning to understand the true meaning of German terror, deception and underhand methods. Already in 1919

the Germans were sure of winning the peace and were planning a war of retaliation on a scale heretofore not seen.

For it was in 1919 that, financed by German industry and secret organizations, the National Socialist movement was born. It is not without reason that in 1920 Oswald Spengler wrote that a German Caesar would rise from the German people and that the next war between Great Britain and Germany would end in the total collapse of one of these powers.

When it was proclaimed that only two of the districts of Upper Silesia would be given to Poland, Wojciech Korfanty realized that the Polish frontier would have to be drawn in blood. He resigned from the Polish Plebiscite Committee and led the third uprising of May 2nd and 3rd. Fighting spread throughout Upper Silesia up to the Oder River and the so-called Korfanty line was established by the unevenly matched Polish peasants. On the German side were the well armed and well trained World War Veterans who had been settled by Germany on the soil of Upper Silesia. In spite of that the moral victory was won by the Poles and even the highest authorities had to consider that. The final decision was therefore left to the League of Nations in Geneva.

Wojciech Korfanty with full faith and confidence in the right of the Polish cause and knowledge of the problem, presented the treachery of the German officials in conducting the plebiscite. In spite of his zeal, his efforts were vain. On October 20th the League decided that the Gliwice and Wielkiestrzelce Districts should remain German, although they had declared themselves for Poland. In addition the Opole, Zabrze and Raciborz and Kozielsk districts were also left to Germany.

The people of Upper Silesia and all Poles believe that the injustice done will be undone by the United Nations. They should not forget the lesson taught them by the Germans—otherwise the consequence may be another world tragedy.

FROM MIDNIGHT TO DAWN ON A POLISH SUBMARINE

by ANDRZEJ GUZOWSKI

IT was a bad night all around. The radio was wheezing and whistling like a nor'western, the canned soup was burned and the peas and corned beef were impossible. Not even a jar of relish could improve them.

Carol was listlessly trying to put a jig saw puzzle together. Somewhere from the depths of the cabin came sounds of shrill, piping tones of a cracked Deanna Durbin record with the accompaniment of some frustrated music enthusiast.

I rested my chin on my knees and with an indifferent gaze watched the electric ventilator revolve.

"Dark?"—Carol asked as he hunted for a missing piece.

"Like hell" I muttered. "The Old Man's staying above, mad as a hornet."

I reached a book from the shelf above and began to read. I turned a few pages trying in vain to become interested. What did I care about the matrimonial and economic troubles of some enamoured Scottish fisherman.

The bossun's voice bellowing juicy seagoing language at some unfortunate boot cheered me immensely.

Carol put the finishing touches to his puzzle and looked at it with pride. It was a cute little English landscape at sunset. The ship was pitching and rolling on the strong surf like an empty barrel over cobblestones. The rocking motion, the monotonous sound of the Diesel motor and the whirr of the ventilator lulled me to sleep.

I was knocked out of this blissful state by three things that

made me jump to my feet. Carol got a blaring rhumba on the radio, the Diesel coughed like an old steam locomotive and at the same time the voice of our Liaison Officer droned near my ear. "Have a 'piwko' with me."

I reached a bottle of beer from under the table. Carol began dressing for his watch. It was 1:55. He went up. After a minute Zygmunt returned cursing to high heaven and dripping like a wet fish.

"It's damn wet, and dark as hell."

At that point I was in the midst of a heated discussion with the L. O. about the musical creativeness of particular races and nations. We finally agreed that the most popularized form was the music of negroes, the swing, jazz and black bottoms.

Zygmunt took off his soaked clothes. His hair still dripping he opened "Deluge" by Sienkiewicz, glanced at us with glassy eyes and settled down with the book. Our discussion having come to such a happy conclusion we sipped our beers in silence.

"An enemy convoy has been sighted," the L. O. broke the silence.

"I saw the signal" I muttered.

I ducked under the table for another bottle.

"Action stations!" blared the excited command.

Coming up suddenly, I cracked my head on the table, kicked the L. O. in his shin and in one jump fell into the arms of the gunner.



On the wet and slippery deck . . .

"Ready Sir" I heard the torpedo guard's voice.

"Series 2, 3, 1, 4" the tube spoke again.

"Series, 2, 3, 1, 4" I repeated.

Dead silence on the ship. Everything seemed to be waiting. The Diesels were stopped, all men were poised for the order "Fire."

Two explosions right near our bulwark.

A short, nervous snore of the clack valve. The floor dipped forward. Two . . . three more explosions . . . silence . . . Submerge.

"I hear him, Captain, he's slowing down, he's searching. Green, 107 . . . 109 . . ." repeated the mechanical voice of the pale boy with the earphones.

"Green 15 . . . another destroyer . . . He hears us. He's coming to attack."

"Star left" came the Old Man's calm voice.

"Don't walk about the ship!" he added more gruffly.

Carol was at the depth steering wheel. He whispered that the convoy escort shot flares at us before we got to the attack position.

"Speed is increased. Green 175 . . . distance 400" the observer reported.

"Depth 100. Hard a port."

"Bombs released" the observer said, slowly taking off his ear phones.

"Both motors full po . . ."

I didn't know whether it was a blast or only a strong shake up. I heard the clink of shattered glass, most of the lights went out.

A second, third, fifth explosion.

I kept repeating "We're still alive."

The boy at the listening post put on his earphones again.

"The second one's attacking," he reported.

A series came after a moment . . .

"Less accurate," I heard my voice saying. Carol looked at me and grinned foolishly.

I went to the mess. The third series threw the hanging lamp on my head. I must have looked very funny with the shade around my neck. I don't know why Zygmunt didn't laugh.

"We've got to take that too, sometimes," I said to the L. O. who was sweeping bits of glass from the table.

The fifth series came very close. I wondered where all the glass came from.

There was a longer lull after 6 o'clock.

Change of watch. I stayed in the central cabin.

"Red—30, I hear the motor" a moment of silence—"60 revolutions, destroyer—he's listening . . ."

And after another moment.

"He's found us . . . he's coming to attack."

"They're stubborn today" said the commander.

I glanced at my watch. It should be light in a half hour.

"Get ready."

There were still things that could break and clatter.

The ninth series was the most accurate.

The Old Man was gambling.

"Gas from the battery" came the report from the bow.

"Check damage! It should be light enough for the periscope."

We rose.

"Listen in—what is the reading?"

"Green 18, 21 . . . 25 . . ."

"Good—angle right 60, speed 10, periscope down."

Zygmunt immediately started computing the given figures.

"Both motors full speed ahead, now to starboard. Slow down motors . . . periscope up, attention at stations . . . Fire! Periscope down . . ."

A light shudder went through the ship. A second, third, fifth torpedo, they were gone . . .

"Hard a-port, full speed ahead. We were too close . . ."

One and two blasts. A third so strong that glass was shattered again.

Explosions followed one another. The whole thing lasted two minutes.

"Periscope down! Emerge!"

There was a ringing in our ears as we rose. The ventilation began to work again. Our lungs filled with fresh air. The heavy load lifted from our chests. The pounding in our heads ceased.

I got out on the wet and slippery deck. Only an empty life boat floated on the waters.



Action stations! . . . Fire!

(Continued from page 5)

biological Research Station. A Sociological School was established at Poznan; Cracow and Lwow produced distinguished ethnologists; Cracow had its School of Art Studies, and noteworthy Philological School. The Polish Academy at Cracow had thirty special "Commissions" for various branches of research.

Physical culture was recognized as essential in the education of new Poland. Physical exercises were compulsory in primary and high schools. All new schools built in Poland included plans for gymnasia. Four universities possessed fully developed facilities for the training of physical instructors. The Institute of Physical Education, at Bielany near Warsaw, had one of the best buildings of its kind in Europe. The Polish Ministry of Education included a "Physical Culture Section." The development of playgrounds, stadiums, summer camps, hurdle race courses, swimming pools, tennis courts and the like has been phenomenal and Poland stood eighth in the Olympic Games of 1932.

Finally, new Poland did not neglect adult education. During the 123 years of partition when the education of her people was deliberately neglected, or turned by the occupying Powers into an instrument for the destruction of her nationality, Poland organized vigorous centers of adult education. There were the People's School Society, the University Extension Courses, the work of *Macierz Szkolna*, and the heroic effort of secret societies. When free Poland began her great work of national reconstruction the importance of adult education was immediately recognized. A special Department of Adult Education was created in the

new Polish Ministry of Public Instruction; educational courses for adults, generally of four years duration, were set up in most of Poland's larger cities; and "winter schools" were organized for country districts. "Village Universities" created on the Danish model, were actively supported by circles of village youth. Adult education has also been assisted by the Polish Radio Company. An entire academic department was set up, in the Free University of Warsaw, for the training of teachers for adult education. At a World Conference on Adult Education held at Cambridge in 1929, Poland was represented by delegates from widely different Polish educational bodies occupied with this branch of teaching.

For ten centuries Poland has had her schools, her Universities, her organizations for training mind and body, her distinguished scientists. It is this carefully built up and rebuilt national edifice, so complete from the kindergarten of the child to the laboratories and libraries of professors and research students, that Nazi barbarism has sought utterly to destroy. This destruction, moreover, had nothing to do with the ravages incidental to war, and especially to totalitarian war. It is a destruction deliberately aimed at the roots of Polish national life and learning; and ruthlessly carried out. Schools and universities are closed. Polish youth is prevented from having access to any Polish educational institution. School children are maltreated and in some cases shot. Teachers are turned adrift, homeless and penniless. Professors are taken away to concentration camps where, not infrequently, they have died, killed by torture and incredible ill usage; the brutal crimes committed by the Nazi regime on these helpless victims cry out for retribution.

JACEK MALCZEWSKI: POET IN PAINTING

(Continued from page 10)

tations, happy and painful. In carefree moments he spun a radiant world of fairy tales like *Spring* (1898) or drew simple pictures of religious sentiment as *Repentance*.

The tragedy of the artist, his desperate attempts to realize his ideal, his disappointments and doubts, and then his moments of drugging creative ecstasy, often recur in Malczewski's paintings. The disproportion between the birth of an idea and its realization, the discrepancy between the aim and the achievement are forcefully suggested in the *Artist and Chimera*. The artist has fallen in a faint by his palette. Clutching at him with malicious glee is a fantastic creation—a winged woman with huge tiger-like hips and a curled tail, a mysterious sphinx, the Chimera, henceforth so frequently met in Malczewski's paintings. This Chimera is the ill-boding demon symbolizing all temptations and illusions that swerve people from their ideals. In Malczewski's philosophy, life is an unceasing struggle with this harpy, and only when it slumbers does the artist feel the joy of creation.

Man seeks deliverance from this everlasting torture and sees no release unless it be in death. Malczewski's paintings dealing with death are among his best. The artist sees her as a woman, usually nude, young and radiant, bringing surcease from toil and peace everlasting to the weary (*Thanatos*).

Serving as a background for real or fantastic beings are landscapes permeated with poetry and atmosphere and in harmony with the figures that seem to grow out of them.

Malczewski evolved his own artistic form, his own style, his own way of expressing his individual artistic being. The basis of his style is an accurate drawing, and bold modelling of the human body. Even the faces of his characters show his wonderful draughtsmanship, their individual expressions underlining definite psychic moods.

Malczewski was not bound by the principle of absolute

fidelity to his models, he does not always render their realistic truth of features, preferring to give them special accents. Frequently in his portraits, Malczewski uses the model as an inspiration for his own color poem and introduces additional real or fantastic figures, places emblems and signs in their hands, or adds various symbolic accessories to the background.

In his later period, Malczewski no longer felt the need of filling his canvas with groups of figures. Concentrating on facial expression or gesture, he is content to show a half-figure or even the head alone and hand fragments of a single figure. Out of his arrangement of two heads or half-figures, Malczewski is able to create strangely beautiful songs without words that have caught a fleeting mood.

Religious subjects provide Malczewski with an opportunity for the original treatment of figures, and the creation of beautiful color poems like *Tobias*, *Christ and the Good Samaritan*, *Doubting Thomas*.

In his later years, religious feeling united in him with deep mysticism. Against this background the Great War inspired a number of powerful visions, *Field of Bones*, in which the suffering of humanity was depicted with terrifying simplicity and clarity.

Jacek Malczewski died in 1929, some twenty years after he retired as head of the Cracow Academy of Fine Arts. Up to the very end he maintained great vitality. Paintings like the *Spinner* or the *Deserted Manor-house* show that the master's greatness never waned. To the last, he could serve as an inspiration to the most modern of modernists.

The cover shows a peasant girl from the region of Lowicz in wedding attire.

"CRIMES" FOR WHICH POLES FACE DEATH

Death sentences on Poles are more and more frequently reported in the German controlled press in Poland. Recently seven were recorded in a single edition of the paper.

In Poznan a farm worker named Franciszek Ratajczak from Obornik was sentenced to death on a charge of manslaughter of his German employer named Rist. Another Pole whose name was not given was sentenced as an accomplice, to a long term in a penal camp. The charge was that he witnessed the crime without helping the German employer.

Also at Poznan were sentenced to death Czeslaw Nowak and Wincenty Plucinski on the charge of offering armed resistance, while their accomplice Tadeusz Malinowski was sentenced to four years of confinement in a penal camp.

In Wloclawek death sentences were passed on Stefan Figurski, Jozef Kowalski, Eugeniusz Radecki on the charge of so-called economic sabotage committed through smuggling large quantities of food-stuffs into the Government General for the starving Polish population. Seven accomplices were sentenced each to from 1 to 5 years confinement in a penal camp each.

A Pole named Lis, alleged to be the leader of a smuggling organization, succeeded in escaping.

In Kalisz a student, Mieczyslaw Pawliczak was sentenced to death on the charge of intentionally sabotaging the German war economy.

NO "GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES" IN POLAND

The Directorate of Civilian Resistance has published a communique in Warsaw emphasizing the fact that in Poland there are no "guerilla activities" but only regular Polish underground forces. Their struggle at the moment is of a defensive character in order to preserve the highest possible number of soldiers for the hour of the offensive. Examples of the defensive character of this struggle are for instance the rescue last April in Warsaw of political prisoners from German clutches and last May at Malogoszcz and Cestynow.

"SWIT" sharply attacks certain elements inspired by non-Polish interests which are trying to provoke a premature general rising. Under present conditions this would be doomed to failure and only bring about more cruel reprisals.

GEN. SIKORSKI'S ORDER OF THE DAY

ON his arrival at Polish headquarters in the Middle East, General Sikorski issued the following order of the day:

"Soldiers! I am happy to find myself among the soldiers of the Polish Army in the East to learn about their work and their troubles. I convey to them sincere greetings which the President of the Republic sends to them through me. Polish soldiers wherever they are, form one complete entity, those at home, we here, and those in Great Britain. We are marching along a road staked out for us by the Polish Nation which proved itself so great in this war and we are fighting on land, sea and in the air for a new, greater Poland just as for all her sons. Our difficulties are great. Poland has many mighty foes. We shall overcome them by maintaining our unity.

Soldiers! During the next few days I shall meet you personally. Today through your commander I am sending you a soldier's sincere greeting."

ZYGIELBOJM'S LAST LETTER TO GEN. SIKORSKI PLEADS FOR JEWS

Zygielbojm's last letter addressed to General Sikorski before he put an end to his days has been published in London. The letter reads as follows:

"I am taking the liberty of addressing to you my last words and through you to the Polish government and people, to the governments and peoples of the allied states, to the conscience of the world. From the latest advices received from Poland it is evident that the Germans are now with ruthless cruelty murdering the few Jews remaining in Poland.

Behind Ghetto walls the last act of a tragedy, unprecedented in history, is being played. Responsibility for the crime of murdering all the Jewish population of Poland falls in the first place on the perpetrators but indirectly it also burdens mankind at large, the peoples and the governments of the allied states which thus far have made no effort towards any positive action for the purpose of curtailing this crime. By passively watching the murder of defenseless millions and of maltreated children, women and men these countries have become accomplices of the criminals.

"I have also to state that although the Polish Government has to a great extent contributed to the moulding of world opinion, yet it has done so insufficiently. It did not do anything that could correspond to the magnitude of the drama now being enacted in Poland. Out of nearly 3½ million Polish Jews and about 700,000 Jews deported to Poland from other countries, there were alive in April 1943, according to official information from the head of underground bund organization sent to us through government dele-

gates, only about 300,000. The murder is still going on incessantly.

"I cannot be silent, cannot live while remnants of the Jewish people in Poland of whom I am a representative, are perishing. My comrades in the Warsaw Ghetto perished with weapons in their hands, in a last heroic impulse. It was not my destiny to die as they did, together with them, but I belong to them and to their common graves.

"By my death I wish to express my strongest protest against the inactivity with which the world is looking on and permitting the Jewish people's extermination. I know how little human life is worth today, but as I was unable to do anything during my life, perhaps by my death I shall contribute to the breaking of the indifference of those who are able to save now, may be in this last moment, the rest of the Polish Jews who are still alive, from certain annihilation. My life belongs to the Jewish people in Poland, and therefore I give it to them.

"I wish that the handful which remain from several millions of Polish Jews could live to see liberation, together with the Polish population, the liberation that it could know in Poland, and in a world of freedom the justice of socialism. And I believe that such a Poland will arise and such a world will come. I trust that the President and the Prime Minister will pass my words to all those for whom they are intended and that the Polish Government will immediately begin appropriate action through diplomatic channels to save those who are still alive.

"I bid farewell to everybody and everything dear to me and loved by me.

S. Zygielbojm."

MRS. OLSZOWSKA BRAVED GESTAPO FACING DEATH

Underground Polish papers carrying accounts of the trial and execution of Mme Olszowska, the 72 year old widow of the former Polish Ambassador to Berlin, have just been received in London.

Questioned by the Gestapo about the finding of a secret printing press in the cellar of her house in Warsaw, following which the Germans shot every one of the fifty-one people living in the building or found there at the time of the raid, Mme Olszowska told them that the seizure and destruction of the press would make no difference. She said:

"There are many such printing presses in Poland. Even at this moment there is probably one printing the details of my trial."

Mme. Olszowska was right. The story of her trial and of her execution on the following day was printed in several of the underground papers, more than one hundred of which are now circulating in Poland and carry the orders of the Directorate of Civilian Resistance to millions of readers.

FORCE POLES TO EXHUME BODIES OF OWN FAMILIES

For sheer gruesomeness inhumanity the following incident reported from Krasnystaw exceeds the most callous of mental tortures devised even by the German invaders. Those inhabitants who had recently lost relatives were rounded up and given spades. They were then put to work exhuming corpses in the local cemetery "to make room for German bodies". Each Polish family was made to exhume the remains of its nearest relatives often in a state of decomposition. Many of the women went insane with horror and a number who resisted the German order were arrested and have not since been heard of.

"SWIT", the secret Polish radio station reveals that religious persecution is being intensified in Poland and is now not only directed against the Church and the priests, but against ordinary citizens. In Duniny Kieleckie the Germans surrounded a group of Poles praying before a statue of the Virgin Mary and without any reason shot nine of them.

Recently the Germans have been conducting anti-air raid drill with live shells, and about the middle of May the shelling damaged the bas relief of Christ in the Church of the Holy Cross, wounding a number of Poles who were praying in the edifice.

Polish Scholar Presents Poland's Case

THE NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE on Sunday, May 30, 1943, published the following letter from Professor Wacław Lednicki of Cracow University, who is now at Harvard:

To the New York Herald Tribune:

In his article "Poland and Russia" Sir Bernard Pares tries to justify the Soviet claims to those parts of Poland which were annexed by Russia in 1939 during the period of collaboration with Germany in the war against Poland. In his justification he draws upon historical, ethnographical and moral arguments. May I also present historical, ethnographical and moral arguments in support of the Polish point of view?

Sir Bernard mentions the fact that after centuries of mutual hostility between Russia and Poland, the Russian Liberal government of 1917 agreed to Poland's full independence. I am well acquainted with the course of Russian-Polish relations of that time, as that historical event was due to the close collaboration of my father, Alexander Lednicki, with the Russian Liberals and with the government of Prince Lvov—the first and last Russian democratic government. But what Sir Bernard fails to mention is the fact that this great achievement was destroyed by the Bolsheviks when they came into power and that as a result of this fact the two nations found themselves facing new hostilities, which very soon degenerated into the Russian-Polish War of 1919-20.

* * *

It seems to me further that Sir Bernard's explanation of the recurrent conflicts between Poland and Russia is oversimplified and that his allusion to the "time of troubles" in Russia is misplaced. I have no doubt Sir Bernard knows that for about five centuries, up to the very time of its partition, Poland ruled the lands now demanded by Stalin and ruled them not by force of conquest but on the basis of peaceful federation with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and by reason of a personal union with the House of Jagiello. This federation came to an end only with the partition of Poland, to which Sir Bernard alludes in his statement: "Later Poland for more than a hundred years disappeared altogether from the map of Europe."

From the historical point of view, these territories belonged to the Polish-Lithuanian-Ruthenian Commonwealth for centuries, and in such cities as Wilno and Lwow every church—Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox—every synagogue, every museum, not to mention our two famous Polish universities founded by the Polish Kings Stefan Batory and Jan Kazimierz, every building and every tree was put there by Polish hands.

* * *

From the economic point of view these lands are poor, with the exception of eastern Galicia, which has oil fields and some raw materials of use in chemical industries. Poland is a very poor country in raw materials. She has only two sources: Silesia and eastern Galicia. This poverty created an acute social problem in connection with the proletarianization of the peasants. If Poland should lose one of her two sources of raw materials the situation would become even more dangerous. To Russia, on the other hand, eastern Galicia can have no real economic importance. In comparison with her rich oil field, the Galician fields, which are extremely difficult and expensive to exploit, are as nothing. One might just as well try to compare a brook to the ocean.

Sir Bernard speaks about "some ten millions of Russian population" incorporated into modern Poland by the treaty of Riga. This is a play on words. In his own articles published before this war in the "Slavonic Review," as well as in articles of other contributors to that review, it is pointed out that the population of these disputed areas is a mixed

one. These territories are not and have never been "essentially Russian." The latest census gives the following figures: Poles, 5,274,000; Ukrainians and Ruthenians, 4,529,000; Jews, 1,109,000; Russians, 134,000; Germans, 89,000; Lithuanians, 84,000; Czechs, 35,000; some Armenians, Karaites, and Tatars. There is one source of confusion for foreigners, and that is the similarity in sound of the terms "Rus" and "Russia." I should hardly have thought it necessary, however, to remind Sir Bernard Pares that Rus and Russia are not the same, and that the greater part of Rus, now known as "Ukraine" was saved by Lithuania and Poland from the Tatars at the time when Muscovite Russia remained under their yoke.

* * *

Sir Bernard writes as if the treaty of Riga had been forced upon Russia and as if she had never reconciled herself to it. This is simply contrary to fact. For about twenty years, from the signing of that treaty to the very outbreak of this war, Russia never contested our eastern frontiers. Quite to the contrary, in many treaties, pacts and declarations she confirmed our rights to these territories.

Sir Bernard speaks of the gratitude which England owes to Russia for her achievements in this war. I shall not discuss this, but I am sorry to have to remind Sir Bernard of the Polish contribution to this war. Poland was the first country to defy Hitler at the risk of war. After the end of the campaign in Poland, in which Poland received her stab in the back from Russia, the Polish nation continued the fight. A powerful underground movement was started in Poland, and, in addition, Poles fought and still are fighting in every land, on every sea and in every sky; in Narvik, in France, in the Battle of England, in Tobruk, they played very important roles. Despite terrific difficulties they have succeeded in organizing the army next in size to those of England, the United States, Russia and China among the United Nations.

And what would have happened in 1939 if Poland had co-operated with Hitler and a hundred German divisions with five thousand planes had advanced against France and Great Britain instead of marching into Poland? Would it be acceptable now to a nation with a war record of such merit to face and accept the prospect of appearing as a dismembered nation, after the victory of the United Nations, in which she did her full share?

* * *

And this is the moral aspect of the problem: The Russian annexations of 1939 no longer exist, even on paper, because the territories themselves are now occupied by German troops and the treaties that announced them have been declared invalid by the Russians themselves. These lands were under Russian rule while Russia was collaborating with Germany. They were given to Stalin by Hitler. Is it for the United Nations to confirm such a gift, as Stalin would like them to do now? Is Poland to fight against Germany in order to confirm a Nazi bargain? Sir Bernard Pares tries to be very realistic. But one idea must be definitely rejected: namely, that our realism will, in the end, be the same thing as the realism of the Axis. On the contrary, our realism must be the understanding that the United Nations are fighting for something quite different, that they are fighting for a world in which no large nation, because it is large, will have the right to demand sacrifices of a small Poland.

WACŁAW LEDNICKI,

Professor at the Universities of Cracow and Brussels,
now at Harvard University.

Cambridge, Mass., May 22, 1943.